

mine, Mr. Wayne Williams, and his steadfast service to his community.

Mr. Williams has served as the fire chief of station 18 of the Ohatchee Volunteer Fire Department since 1981. His many years of service have helped further strengthen station 18 as an institution the people of Calhoun County have always relied upon to provide safety and peace of mind. On December 6, the members of station 18 will gather to honor Mr. Williams' service during their annual Christmas Dinner.

I am proud to join the members of the Ohatchee VFD in thanking Mr. Williams for his service and wish him and his family the best at this important occasion to honor his dedication and leadership.

HONORING RICHARD SCHNEIDER
OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Schneider, who has been recognized as the City of Sonoma's 2007 Treasure Artist of the Year. Mr. Schneider is being recognized for his contributions to Sonoma and his leadership of the Sonoma Hometown Band.

Mr. Schneider was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, but moved to northern California at a young age when his father was transferred to work at Alcatraz Federal Prison. At the end of the war, the family moved north to Fields Landing in Humboldt County, where Mr. Schneider was raised in this small town and attended the local school. In 1949, the family moved to Eureka, where he participated in a band for the first time.

After graduating from Eureka High School in 1954, Mr. Schneider joined the Navy hoping to become a member of the Navy Drum and Bugle Corps. He was accepted, but was subsequently assigned to the Naval Communications School. After completing his training, he spent 2 years in Korea and 2 years in Germany. In 1959, he left the Navy and began attending Humboldt State University, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in music in 1963.

After completing college, Mr. Schneider began teaching music in the Central Valley, first in Hanford and then as a full time teacher at three different schools in Corcoran. In 1965, he moved to Sonoma after being hired to teach at local schools. The following year, he was transferred to the high school, where he founded the high school band with strong support from Principal Max Murray.

In 1967, Mr. Schneider founded the Sonoma Hometown Band in order to provide a musical group for the 4th of July parade. The band was initially made up of 25 high school students, but has gradually expanded as former students returned to participate and members of the community joined. Today, the band gives a half-dozen performances each year, bringing together musicians of all ages under Mr. Schneider's direction. From concerts at the Sebastiani Theatre to the 4th of July, the Sonoma Hometown Band has become an important fixture in Sonoma under Mr. Schneider's leadership.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we congratulate Mr. Schneider for

being recognized as the City of Sonoma's 2007 Treasure Artist of the Year. As the leader of the Hometown Band, he has brought his community an exciting musical group catering to all ages, interests and skill levels.

TRIBUTE TO NASA FLIGHT
DIRECTOR MATT ABBOTT

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected western New York native, Matt Abbott, for his leadership in directing the recent space shuttle mission *Endeavour*.

As lead flight director on the recent space shuttle mission *Endeavour*, Matt has proven that when you put your mind to something anything is possible. Since he can remember, Matt has dreamed of working in Mission Control. When he was 6 years old, he watched on television as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon. While most of Matt's friends dreamed of becoming astronauts, Matt saw the challenge and inspiration in working behind the scenes, leading the mission.

While not physically aboard the shuttle, Matt has become one of the most important members in Mission Control, as the ultimate responsibility for decisions made during the flight lies on his shoulders.

After graduating from Texas A&M, Matt started working at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston as a Mission Control flight dynamics officer. In this position he was responsible for monitoring the location and performance of the shuttle during flight, as well as planning maneuvers. He then took a position with the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal, working with the Canadarm2 robotic arm on the International Space Station. He eventually returned to the Johnson Space Center, where he became a flight director. Matt has worked on 40 shuttle missions in flight dynamics, including 27 launches and 11 landings.

Throughout his life, Matt has been committed to pursuing his dreams. His achievements serve as an excellent example of how to make your dreams a reality, and he serves as a true role model for children across the country.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service, for his leadership, his dedication to our country, I ask this honorable body join me in honoring NASA flight director Matt Abbott.

TRIBUTE TO UPPER DUBLIN
TOWNSHIP

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of Upper Dublin Township to adopt environmentally conscious practices and to encourage use of alternative energy sources.

Upper Dublin Township currently relies on 100 percent clean, renewable energy for its municipal energy needs and encourages its residents to use clean energy for their homes and businesses. It was the Commonwealth's first municipality to switch to 100 percent clean energy.

Upper Dublin Township has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the quality of the quality of water, land and air resources. Efforts have included increasing reliance on renewable energy, creating community incentives to increase recycling, preserving open space, educating the community on sustainable practices, and reducing pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management. With much of its land developed, Upper Dublin Township has recognized the need to focus its environmental efforts on influencing the behavior of its residents and businesses.

Madam Speaker, Upper Dublin Township sets an example of how sustainability can work for suburban communities. Thanks to policies and programs enacted by the Board of Commissioners and the Environmental Protection Advisory Board, Upper Dublin Township is helping to move the 13th Congressional District towards greater use of renewable resources.

I am proud to represent the people of Upper Dublin Township in Congress and applaud their success in working to reduce our dependence on imported sources of energy, and create a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations. I congratulate them for their critical efforts and wish them continued success with this endeavor.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY SHERROD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Shirley Sherrod, who has worked determinedly for more than 20 years as the Georgia Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and Land Assistance Fund, an outstanding organization dedicated to enhancing rural communities through sustained operation of family farms.

As a part of her work, Shirley has helped to run one of the countries most successful USDA Outreach and Technical Assistance Projects, providing assistance on debt restructuring, alternating crops, marketing, financial planning, recordkeeping, and farm management to minority and disadvantaged farmers. The project has operated in four states, and seen an increase in the number of minority-owned farms in two of those states.

Shirley's leadership with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives exemplifies her lifetime of dedication to her community. Shirley's work began in 1965, where as an organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Southwest Georgia Project, she helped to start a 6000-acre land trust. She also worked with women to organize childcare and pre-school programs, and was intensely dedicated to the numerous voter registration and education projects which helped African Americans become elected officials.